

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend Paragraph [0020] (which begins on page 5 of the patent application), as indicated below:

For technical reasons the use of a metallic o-ring is not possible: the actual solutions regard the use of different materials, like for example, tissues and caulk which normally are mixtures of ceramic powders with the add of fluidizing means. In any case, the result is a porous structure permeable to the electrolyte and in communication with the electrolyte of all the cells. [.] As a consequence, the single cells could not be considered independent, since the gaskets of the manifold represent possible passages of electrolyte from one cell to another.

A clean version of amended Paragraph [0020] is reproduced below:

For technical reasons the use of a metallic o-ring is not possible: the actual solutions regard the use of different materials, like for example, tissues and caulk which normally are mixtures of ceramic powders with the add of fluidizing means. In any case, the result is a porous structure permeable to the electrolyte and in communication with the electrolyte of all the cells. As a consequence, the single cells could not be considered independent, since the gaskets of the manifold represent possible passages of electrolyte from one cell to another.

Please amend Paragraph [0053] (page 12 of the patent application) as shown below:

a positive reservoir component, external to the cathode of the first cell on the positive side of the battery, wherein said reservoir consists of one or ~~one~~ more porous layers of electronically conductive material and comprises at least one gas distributor and

A clean version of amended Paragraph [0053] is reproduced below:

a positive reservoir component, external to the cathode of the first cell on the positive side of the battery, wherein said reservoir consists of one or more porous layers of electronically conductive material and comprises at least one gas distributor and

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Response to Office Action of June 4, 2009
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Please amend Paragraph [0054] (page 12 of the patent application) as shown below:

a negative reservoir component, external to the anode of the last cell on the negative side of the battery, wherein said reservoir consists of one or one more porous layers of electronically conductive material

A clean version of amended Paragraph [0054] is reproduced below:

a negative reservoir component, external to the anode of the last cell on the negative side of the battery, wherin said reservoir consists of one or more porous layers of electronically conductive material

Please amend Paragraph [0089] as shown below:

FIG. 2 shows a possible embodiment of the reservoir at the positive side of the stack. ~~The reservoir is located between the positive plate 13 and the cathode of the first cell at the positive side, from which it is separated by means of a separating plate 14 which is of the same type of the plates used to separate the cells in the stack. Also the current collector\gas distributor 15, the cathode 16 and the matrix 18 of the first one cell are shown.~~

A clean version of amended Paragraph [0089] is reproduced below:

FIG. 2 shows a possible embodiment of the reservoir at the positive side of the stack.

Please add the following Paragraph [0089.1] immediately after amended Paragraph [0089]:

FIG. 3 shows a possible embodiment of the reservoir at the negative side of the stack.

Please add the following paragraph [0089.2] immediately after Paragraph [0089.1]:

Referring to the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, the reservoir is located between the positive plate 13 and the cathode of the first cell at the positive side, from which it is separated by means of a separating plate 14 which is of the same type of the plates used to separate the cells in the stack. Also the current collector\gas distributor 15, the cathode 16 and the matrix 18 of the first one cell are shown.